

D 9411/13(c)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

## CROSS-REFERENCE SLIP

Special Branch OFFICE

FILE NO. 29411 / 13 (C)

**SUBJECT:**

1541

BRITISH PROPAGANDA OFFICE

[illegible]

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

File No. ....

S.I., Special Branch.

REPORT

Date August 26, 1941

**SECRET**

Subject (in full) British Press Attache Office and News Reel Cinema - Removal  
of Offices.

Made by D.S.I. Darters Forwarded by G.D.I. Lees

British Press Attache Office formerly located in Glen Line Building, 28 The Bund, will remove to and take over part of, offices occupied by Canadian Pacific Railway & Steamship Co., 27 The Bund, by September 1, 1941. The cinema will be transferred by September 15, 1941, to Cathedral School property, 219 Kiukiang Road.

These moves are the result of sale of Glen Line property to Japanese interests.

J. D. I.  
D. S. I.

A.C. (Special Branch).



FILE

27 8/41

JR

Please quote  
Ref.No.35/504/41.

7411/13(C)  
OFFICE OF THE PRESS ATTACHE  
BRITISH EMBASSY  
SHANGHAI.

26th April, 1941.

Sir,

I beg to inform you that the times of  
showing for the News Reels in this Office  
for the month of May will be as follows:-

Mondays to Fridays- 5.30:6.45:8:9.15:

Saturdays-2:3.15:4.30:5.30:6.45:8:9.15:

Sundays-10.15:11.15 and as on Saturdays.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

*John Alexander*  
PRESS ATTACHE.

The Officer in Charge,  
Central Station,  
Foonow Road,  
LOCAL.

*cc. (Summers)*

FILE  
APR 25

*Mr. Quinn*  
*Forwarded to you*  
*please inform*  
*BBB*  
Officer in charge,  
*Centime*



(Special Branch) Office Notes

D. C. (Divisions).

File attached. I agree with D.O. "A".

The showing of these films is a private venture,  
but I see no harm in the Police giving advice if necessary, *if not*  
actual assistance or recognition is given. *Embassy picture is*  
No further action appears necessary. *same as Embassy picture of not*

*C.I.*  
Information.



*Pharmar*  
A.C. (Special Branch)



SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.

REPORT

No. 413/44

A.I.

Central

April 7th, 1941.

Station. File No. Date

SUBJECT: 'Protection of British Press Attache's Office  
Sir,

Mr. Hubert, of the Canadian Pacific Steamship Co. operator of the cinema machine of the above office, was interviewed by the undersigned at 2.30 p.m. 7-4-41 and after a discussion on preventative methods against possible bombing of the premises the following suggestions were made and will be adopted:-

- (1) Expanding metal to be fitted outside all windows.
- (2) All persons entering to be requested to remove their outer coats.
- (3) A burglar alarm to be installed.
- (4) No person to be allowed to leave the premises without a proper permit to leave (to be given by the undersigned).
- (5) A search to be made of the premises for any suspicious objects.

D. C. (DIVISIONS)  
Investigation.

A.C. 842

CONFIDENTIAL.

CONFIDENTIAL

Se. 4/13/44  
A.I.

February 10,

41.

Secretary & Commissioner General:

S. M. G.

BRITISH EMBASSY CINEMA.



1. Some six weeks ago Mr. W.C. Cassels told me it was desired to obtain a bigger theatre for the Ministry of Information, and asked Police reactions to the engagement of an existing cinema for short periods.

I told him the use of a licensed cinema for a private show of a propaganda nature would be objectionable even though entrance was by invitation only, and asked him to drop the idea.

2. About a week ago a Mr. ... asked to see me, and requested a licence for a private cinema ... at the ... for ...

I did so, ignoring the remainder of the memorandum, and returned it with the attached letter - A.

4. At 3 p.m. February 10th, Mr. E.F. Harris, Sun Life Insurance, asked if I would look over a proposed circular letter to B.R.A. Members on the same subject. I did so, and made a number of proposed corrections and returned it with the attached letter - B.

I am still dissatisfied with a <sup>part</sup> of this proposed letter, and have asked Mr. Harris to take up my revised version with you before putting it to the B.R.A. Committee.

The Police position is as stated, but I can see no objection to the British Community supporting the Embassy financially for the purpose of the private exhibition of films. Such financial arrangements are not the business of the Police; but if, on the other hand, it can be stated by hostile persons that tickets, or invitations, are sold publicly, or privately outside the British Community, then I feel the Police position is stronger.

The above is the extent of Police feelings in the matter.

H. H. [illegible]

CONFIDENTIAL.  
.....

C O P Y

February 10, 1943.

John A. Alexander, Esqre:  
British Embassy Press Attache,  
SHANGHAI.

Dear Alexander:

I have seen references to the Police Department extracted from a memorandum on British Embassy Cinema activities, and return herewith these extracts with suggested adjustments.

The Police position is simply this. Provided the British Embassy show pictures without charge, purely by invitation, on British property, the matter is no concern of the Police Force; nor do we wish to know what pictures are shown or other details.

As you know, the German Propaganda Section show pictures in the German School without any reference to the Police Force, and they are perfectly entitled to do so under similar conditions to those quoted above.

My position in regard to the extracts from your memorandum is simply the Police position, and I have, therefore, adjusted the wording to an impersonal one.

Yours sincerely:

(SGD.) K.M. BOURNE,  
Commissioner of Police.

IW/.

CONFIDENTIAL.  
.....

C O P Y.  
- - - -

February 10, 1941.

H.F. Harris, Esqre:  
Messrs. Sun Life Assurance Company  
of Canada,  
S H A N G H A I.

Dear Harris:

I return herewith your proposed letter with some suggested alterations in pencil. These alterations are made on the basic principle that this is a private undertaking on British property, without charge, by the British Embassy. I do not think we should talk about tickets, but only invitations. Since the documents, without doubt, will find their way into the wrong hands sooner or later, we cannot be too careful on this point.

I am not quite clear when you refer to the B.R.A. Cinema Office at 28, The Bund, how this will be arranged. It is certainly quite important that there should be no notice board or other indication that tickets can be bought publicly. At the same time, I can see your difficulty, and I think the matter might be adjusted by labelling it Embassy Sub-Office or some similar name.

So far as the Police are concerned, we have no knowledge officially other than it being a private British Embassy undertaking, free of charge, by invitation, on private British property.

Yours sincerely:

(SOD.) K.M. BOURNE,

Commissioner of Police.

IN/.



CONFIDENTIAL.  
.....

February 10,

41.

John A. Alexander, Esqre:  
British Embassy Press Attache,  
SHANGHAI.

*Sp. B. for*

**CONFIDENTIAL**



Dear Alexander:

I have seen references to the Police Department extracted from a memorandum on British Embassy Cinema activities, and return herewith these extracts with suggested adjustments.

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Yours sincerely:

K. M. BOURNE  
Commissioner of Police.

IV/.

February 10,

41.

E.F. Harris, Esqre:  
Messrs. Sun Life Assurance Company  
of Canada,  
S. H. A. N. G. H. A. I.

**CONFIDENTIAL**

Dear Harris:

I return herewith your proposed letter with some suggested alterations in pencil. These alterations are made on the basic principle that this is a private undertaking on British property, without charge, by the British Embassy. I do not think we should talk about tickets, but only invitations. Since the documents, without doubt, will find their way into the wrong hands sooner or later, we cannot be too careful on this point.

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So far as the Police are concerned, we have no knowledge officially other than it being a private British Embassy undertaking, free of charge, by invitation, on private British property.

Yours sincerely:

K. M. BOURNE  
Commissioner of Police.

W/.

**SECRET**

**SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE.**

File No. ....

S. S., Special Branch

**REPORT**

Date Jan. 24th, 1941

Subject British Propaganda Cinema at Race Course.

Made by D.S.I. Darters

Forwarded by Supt. Mason.



Le 4/13/44  
A.I.

The above cinema which was scheduled for opening on Jan. 15th, 1941 will now not be opened until the end of February due to structural alterations. Sound and projector equipment for this theatre will be partly supplied by K.K. Butler of Asia Theatres. The Committee which has been formed to select pictures and manage the theatre consists of the following :

R.S.R. Hubert

D. Ezra

W.J. Hawkins.

E.F. Harris

J. Haynes Wilson

W.C. Cassels

It is probable that the first picture to be screened at this theatre will be the British propaganda picture "THIS FREEDOM". This film will be reviewed by mentioned committee at 10 a.m. Jan. 29, 1941 at British Propaganda Cinema at Bund. Local agents for this film are R.A.O. Corporation and the film will be leased from them for \$25,000. This money will be subscribed by members of the Committee and other local Britons.

Commr. of Police.

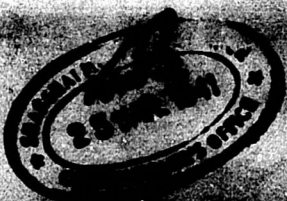
Sir:

Information

A.C. (Sp. Br)

D.C. (Division)

D.C. (Crime)



**CONFIDENTIAL**

Shanghai Municipal Police  
Headquarters.

Date January 14, 1941.

W.C. Cassels, Esq.: M.C.

My dear Billy:

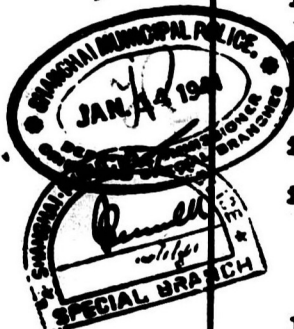
10. 4/13/44  
D.I.

D.C. (Gr & Sp. Br.)

file

I attach confidential copies of Sp. Br.

opinion with which I agree. Former cases were prior to the outbreak of war and even then we did not like it. If the British Embassy leased the Capitol for, say a year, as private property, it would be alright, but intermittent hiring of a licensed Public Cinema is bound to create difficulties. I shall be grateful if you will not pursue the idea.



**K.M. BOURNE**

IN/.

Date January 14, 1941.

(Crime Branch) Office Notes

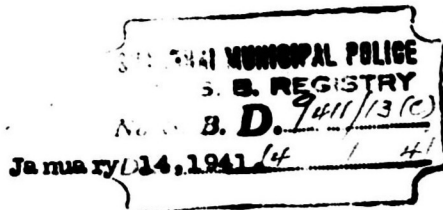
Commissioner.

I am in agreement with the views set out in attached report by A.C. (Special Branch) and suggest that Mr. Cassels takes the course indicated in the final paragraph of his letter. To exhibit British propaganda matter in licensed establishments in the Settlement at the present moment would be, to say the very least, most unwise.

*John Robertson*

D.C. (Crime & Special Branches).





Commissioner.

Sir,

Request from British Press Attache's Office  
re hiring of licensed cinema for showing of  
a propaganda film.

4/13/44  
B.I.

During the morning of 13-8-33 (Sunday) a German propaganda film "Germany Awakes" was shown at the Grand Theatre, whilst the same film was shown at the Capitol Theatre at 5.30 p.m. on 30-1-34.

The showing of this film was of a private nature, sponsored by the German Consular Authorities, entrance to the theatre being by special invitation.

During the evening of 30-6-38 an Italian propaganda film "Hitler's Visit to Italy" was shown at the Capitol Theatre.

The showing of this film was also of a private nature, sponsored by the Italian Consular Authorities, entrance to the theatre being by special invitation.

The showing of these films being of a private nature no objections were raised to these performances by S.M. Police.

These films, though propaganda films for the two Axis Powers, were shown previous to the present hostilities, the showing of which was not for any long period of time (a total of only 4 showings).

The S.M. Police for the showing of these films, previous to the present hostilities, could not have raised objections could they have done so at that time.



1. Public premises licensed by and paying licence fees to S.M.C. should not be used for the purpose of the dissemination of propaganda.
2. A similar request for the lease of premises may be received from a member of the Axis Powers, which would make it practically impossible to refuse this request if the proposal of the British Press Attache was sanctioned.
3. The showing of this film for a week with the possibility of the further screening of propaganda films would necessitate the exclusive hiring of the cinema for the period that these films were being screened.

This would be necessary in order to preclude the possibility of any time bomb, etc. being left on the premises by a visitor to the performance previous to the screening of the propaganda film.

4. would it be fair to the general public to preclude them from attendance at a licensed cinema for a protracted period of time whilst the said cinema is being used for the purpose of propaganda.
5. During the screening of these propaganda films at a public cinema a Police guard would be advisable in order to prevent the possibility of any incident.

The international nature of the Settlement does not warrant a police guard being provided in order to protect the propaganda of any nation.

6. The sale of tickets, no matter how privately and discreet by the B.R.A. or other methods of sale as proposed by the British Press Attache would undoubtedly be known to the Axis Power Authorities which would give grounds for a protest in respect to the sale of such tickets for entrance into licensed premises where a

-3-

propaganda film was being screened. (Protest of German Consular Authorities re "The Fallen Mask", a play given at the British Press Attache's hall during November 1940).



**CONFIDENTIAL**

D. C. (Cr &amp; Sp Branch)

Shanghai Municipal Police

Headquarters.

Date

13 JAN 1911

COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

The question is can we allow a human  
 theater to be closed to the Public & used for  
 the private showing of a political film.

Probably cannot be permitted.

Tickets must be issued gratis to Embassy.

Provided there is no public sale of tickets to  
 Embassy plans for financing the question does not  
 matter. Probably there should be no Press problem.  
 Your Committee protesting as para 1. would be  
 welcome & to number 10 am if possible.

Shanghai Municipal Police  
Headquarters.

Date.....

You have precedents for such appointments  
in Sp. Bu. Ltr. I don't remember one asking.  
Rev. Off. my best regards



Commissioner of Police

**BRITISH PRESS ATTACHE'S OFFICE,**

**28 The Bund,**

**SHANGHAI.**

**January 13th 1941.**

**Dear Bourne,**

As Acting Press Attache I would be grateful if you would go into the question as to whether there are objections to the private showing of the propaganda film "For Freedom", in a Licenced Cinema such as the "Uptown" or "Capital" for about one week.

In order to cover the cost it would be necessary for us to sell tickets but this would be done privately through the B.R.A. and perhaps in British Clubs. We would like to be able to advertise the film as the cost seems likely to be high and I should be glad of your views on this point. If you see objections we could no doubt publicise it widely by circulars and through Clubs.

I should let you know that if arrangements can be satisfactorily made for the showing of this film we will probably proceed with other propaganda films of a similar nature, so it is clearly important that there should be no misunderstandings and that every aspect should be carefully studied.

If you feel that the use of a recognised cinema is undesirable, we will try and speed up our plans, now under way, for the use of a room at the Race Course, but this would only hold 300 persons and projectors are not at present available.

**Yours sincerely,**

*bc Cassels.*

**Major K.M. Bourne, M.C.,**

**Headquarters,,**

*Pain*  
**Shanghai Municipal Council,**

**185 Pootung Road, SHANGHAI.**

**SECRET**

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

S. 3, Special Branch

**REPORT**

File No. ....  
No. 111/13  
Dec. 27/1940  
27/12/40

Subject (in full) British Propaganda Office to open a cinema at Shanghai Race Club

Made by D.S.I. Datters Forwarded by Supt. Mason.

A cinema seating approximately 300 persons will be opened on or about January 15, 1941 on Shanghai Race Club premises. The usual propaganda films will be exhibited.

Commander of Police

Sir:

Inform

27/12/40  
Datters  
A.C. (S. Br.)

D. S. I.

A. C. (Special Branch).

FILE





FM. 2  
G. 40H-1-40

**SECRET**

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
S. B. REGISTRY

S.3, Special Branch

REPORT

Date

No. S. B. D. 9411/13 (4)  
11 40  
Nov. 22, 1940

Subject. British Propaganda Office seeking larger premises for screening  
propaganda pictures.

Made by D.S.I. Darters

Forwarded by

Supt. Mason.

Information has been received that the British Propaganda Office are endeavouring to obtain the loan or lease of the Royal Asiatic Societies Hall, No.20 Museum Road, for the purpose of screening propaganda pictures.

The Capital Theatre, No.142 Museum Road, is also being considered as a possible place for propaganda pictures. This theatre is owned by Saphiere (British Jew ?) and is doing little business.

*Further information  
in our cases*

Comms. of Police  
Sir.

Information

27/11/40

*Pennell*

A. C. (Sp. Br.)



*W.E. Darters*  
D. S. I.

FILE

A. C. (Special Branch).

**SECRET**

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
S. S. REGISTER

No. S. S. D. 244/131

Date 12 7 40

S. S. Special Branch

REPORT

Date July 12, 1940.

Subject British Paramount war films to be shown privately in Shanghai.

Made by D. S. I. Darters

Forwarded by Supt. Mason.

Se 4/12/44  
D. I.

British Paramount war films edited by R. Hubert (Canadian), C. P. R. Co., will be shown to-night at the B. W. A. rooms, The Bund, to a selected audience.

These films were imported to Shanghai by British Embassy.

From seven British Paramount newsreels Mr. R. Hubert has made a complete film depicting scenes of Empire troops and the Royal Navy in action.

It is understood that the American Club, American Women's Club and marines have asked for private screenings of this film.

FILE

W. S. I. Darters.

D. S. I.

D. C. (Special Branch).

Ruby 13/17

FM. 2  
G. 404

CONFIDENTIAL  
DRAWER

SECRET

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE  
S. E. REGISTRY  
No. S. B. D. 9411/13 (C)

S.3, Special Branch

REPORT

Date: July 8, 1940

Subject: Propaganda Pictures - Exhibition of now prohibited in the  
French Concession.

Made by: D.S.I. Darters

Forwarded by: Supt. Mason.

19-4/12/44  
A.I.

Information was received by undersigned from French Film Censor that the exhibition of propaganda films or any films of present European War is now prohibited in the French Concession; this is by order of Monsieur L. Auge, French Consul.

Monsieur P. Leblanc, Sous-Directeur, G.M.F., attended screening of Paramount and British Paramount newsreels which contained many scenes of the present war from allied angle, on July 1, 1940, and is understood to have made a lengthy report on the subject, suggesting that they contained propaganda and were unsuitable for exhibition in the French Concession.

At the outbreak of present hostilities the advertising of German merchandise was prohibited in the French Concession, even adverts for Bayer Aspirin. French Authorities have now lifted the ban.

It is understood from reliable sources that there is about £300 worth of British Paramount newsreels and equipment in the Settlement.

Commr. of Police.

Sir:

Information.

*P. D. L. forke.*

D.C. (Sp. Br.)

E. Sent  
4/7



FILE

24

*P. D. L. forke.*

D. S. I.

P. C. (Special Branch)

INDEXED BY  
S. E. REGISTRY